ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री बाबागौड़ा पाटील): (क) से (ङ) जवाहर रोजगार योजना, सुनिश्चित रोजगार योजना, दस लाख कुओं को योजना, इन्दिरा आवास योजना, समेकित ग्रामीण विकास कार्यक्रम, गंगा कल्याण योजना, ग्रामीण महिला एवं बाल विकास (डवाकरा), ग्रामीण युवा स्वरोजगार प्रशिक्षण (ट्राइसेम), ग्रामीण कारीगरों को उन्नति औजारों की आपूर्ति (सिट्रा), सूखा प्रवण क्षेत्र कार्यक्रम, मरूभूमि विकास कार्यक्रम, राष्ट्रीय सामाजिक सहायता कार्यक्रम, त्वरित ग्रामीण जल आपूर्ति कार्यक्रम,केन्द्रीय ग्रामीण स्वच्छता कार्यक्रम, समेकित बंजरभूमि विकास कार्यक्रम ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्रालय द्वारा देश के ग्रामीण भागों में कार्यान्वित की जा रही ग्रामीण विकास और रोजगार योजनाएं हैं। वर्ष 1995-96, 1996-97 तथा 1997-98 के दौरान मुख्य ग्रामीण विकास योजनाओं के अन्तर्गत मंत्रालय द्वारा राज्यों को आबंटित निधियों को धनराशि और राज्यों द्वारा उनका उपयोग अनुबंध में दिया गया है। [देखिए परिशिष्ट 186, अनुपत्र संख्या 2]

चालू वित्त वर्ष के दौरान राज्यों को 8764.91 करोड़ रुपए की राशि आबंटित की गई है। जनवरी, 1999 के अंत तक राज्यों को 7118.20 करोड़ रुपए रिलीज किए गए हैं।

Assessment of the role of VHP and Bajrang Dal

*40. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the role of VHP and Bajrang Dal in promoting communal tensions in various parts of India; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome of such assessment?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) The activities of all organisations having a bearing on maintenance of communal harmony in the country are under constant watch of law enforcement agencies and requisite penal and preventive action is taken, where necessary.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Accumulated loss of ECL

156. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the accumulated loss of Eastern Coalfields Ltd;

(b) why no attempt was made to check the loss at an early stage;

(c) whether there was a proposal to close the company; and

(d) if so, why it was put off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The accumulated loss of Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL), a subsidiary company of Coal India Limited (CIL) as on 31.3.98 is Rs. 1,728.61 crores.

(b) At the early stage of nationalisation, prime importance was given for production of coal to meet the national demand. Even projects formulated with losses were sanctioned for increase of coal production.

ECL has been incurring losses on account of following reasons:—

(i) The Company has a large body of surplus manpower which has caused high cost of coal production in ECL. The company also suffers from a lower productivity as compared to the profit making subsidiary companies of CIL. ECL employs 148,000 persons representing 25% of total manpower of CIL, but produces only 27 million tonnes of coal accounting for about 10% of CIL's production.

(ii) Large number of uneconomic underground mines taken over at the time of nationalisation are being operated by ECL. The majority of the ECL mines are underground. The underground mines are very old and have

extensive and unscientific workings with difficult geo-mining conditions. Such mines are not readily amenable to large scale mechanisation.

(iii) Most of the ECL mines being located in the State of West Bengal, the consumers taking coal from the ECL mines in West Bengal are required to pay the cesses being levied by the Government of West Bengal. No other State Government is levying any cess on coal.

(iv) ECL has little scope for large scale opencast mining.

(v) The ECL mines are located in thickly populated areas which adversely affect mining operations.

On account of the above reasons, it has not been possible to cover up the accumulated loss of ECL despite the following financial support to ECL provided by the Government of India and CIL:—

(i) Contribution from Coal Price Regulation Account amounting to Rs. 3265 crores.

(ii) Waiver of interest and penal interest amounting to Rs. 1309 crores.

(iii) Conversion of debt into equity in 1997-98 amounting to Rs. 1179 crores.

(iv) A moratorium of three years on repayment and interest payment of non-plan loan of Rs. 259 crores.

(v) Investment by Government of India and Coal India Limited amounting to Rs. 2800 crores at the end of 1997-98.

A fresh package for turn-around of ECL has been proposed which is under the consideration of the Trade Unions. The salient features of the package are:—

(i) One time retirement of employees over 55 years of age through Voluntary Retirement Scheme

(ii) Freezing of wages at the level of 31.12.1998 till the end of the period of National Coal Wage Agreement-VI i.e. 31.6.2001.

(iii) Stoppage of Leave Travel Concession/Long Leave Travel Concession for a period of two years.

(iv) Single payment for Sunday work with staggered day of rest.

(c) There is no proposal to close down ECL.

(d) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (c) of the question.

Decrease in coal mining in Singrauli Collieries

157. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mining of coal has been decreased in the Singrauli Collieries;

(b) if so, since when and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Singrauli Collieries has decided to further reduce the coal mining;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to remove crisis being faced by Singrauli collieries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Yes, Sir. There has been a marginal decrease in coal production on NCL operating in Singrauli Coalfields during the period April, 98-January, 99 compared to same period last year.

(b) About 98% of coal production of NCL is linked to power plants and the production and despatch thereof is planned on the basis of projected demand of the linked consumers.

During the year 1998-99, despatches to its linked consumers has suffered because of the following reasons:

(i) For five months from middle of July, 1998, NCL could not supply coal to the Obra Power Station of